

LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Together with the Report

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1963

C.E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

C.E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

GEORGE LEEDER, M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors:

WILLIAM E. SHAW, M.A.P.H.I. (Retired 13.1.63).

J.B. DUCKWORTH, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

C. MATHESON, M.A.P.H.I.

B.D. ROGERSON, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed 4.2.63).

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

T.W. HOWELLS.

Office Staff:

MRS. J. HAWKINS.

MISS J. LAIDNER (Appointed 18.3.63).

Sanitary Foreman/Rodent Officer:

F. FEARN.

LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
1963.

To the Chairman and Members,
Lichfield Rural District Council.

I have pleasure in presenting my report on some aspects of community health during 1963, together with details of the work carried out by the Health Department during the year.

The various vital statistics are set out in roughly the same form as in previous years, but advantage has been taken of somewhat fuller information supplied by the Registrar General in relation to ages of death to amplify a little the amount of information given in this part of the report.

As regards notifiable infectious diseases, the year was a reasonably satisfactory one, as shown by the figures recorded in the various tables included in the text, with the exception of measles, where the usual biennial epidemic occurred, giving rise to the large number of recorded notifications, with, unfortunately, one death.

Fairly full information is included in the report as to statutory action taken by the Council in relation to houses unfit for human habitation. Unfortunately, as mentioned in this part of the report, it appears probable that it will be a little time before statutory action can, for various reasons, be followed by rehousing of the occupants of the houses in question.

I mentioned in my introduction to last year's report that action being taken to improve sewerage and sewage disposal in the district would lead to more rapid progress in later years. While actual progress is still on a limited scale, it will be appreciated, from the information given in the Surveyor's section of the report, that much work has been done, which should lead to greatly increased progress in the very near future.

Mr. Leeder, in his introductory remarks, has given details of changes of staff which have occurred in the Department during the year. I would only add my personal appreciation of the valuable work done by Mr. Shaw over many years, and the help which the appointment of the additional Public Health Inspector will be in carrying out the continually increasing duties being laid on the Department in meat inspection and other fields of work.

I have pleasure in acknowledging the continued help and co-operation given during the year by Members of the Council and by the staff in all Departments.

C.E. JAMISON.

Medical Officer of Health.

23rd June, 1964.



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GENERAL STATISTICS.

The following figures show the area, population, number of inhabited houses, total rateable value of all property subject to rates and the product of a penny rate:-

Area (in acres)	83,906
Population (as estimated by Registrar General) ...	41,950
Number of Inhabited Houses.	12,451
Total Rateable Value.	£1,384,719
Net Product of a Penny Rate	£5,750

While the area has again remained unchanged, the population and the number of inhabited houses show similar small increases to those of other recent years. It would appear probable that the figures for the present year, when recorded, will show a rather different future, with a much more dramatic increase.

The total rateable value and the product of a penny rate are, of course, vastly increased, as compared with the previous year, because of the effect of the general revaluation carried out. In these circumstances, of course, no useful comparison is possible.

VITAL STATISTICS

The principal vital statistics are set out below in the same form as in previous years:-

Live Births -	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	368	379	747
Illegitimate	21	11	32
Total	389	390	779
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population ...	18.6		

Still Births -	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	5	5	10
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total	5	5	10
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Births ...	12.7		

Deaths in Infants Under One Week -	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	5	3	8

Deaths in Infants Under Four Weeks -	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	5	3	8
Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births	...	10.3	

Deaths in Infants Under One Year -	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	5	5	10
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	5	5	10
Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births	...	12.8	

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Deaths (All Ages)	240	212	452
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	...	10.8	

It will be noted that 32 births out of the total of 789 live and still births were illegitimate, giving a proportion of one in every 25 births. This figure is quite close to the average over a period of year, comparing with one in 17 births in 1962, one in 33 in 1961, one in 26 in 1960, one in 30 in 1959 and 1958, one in 22 in 1957 and one in 28 in 1956.

As there were no stillbirths and no deaths in illegitimate infants, it is obviously, and fortunately, not possible to make any comparison between the incidence of these occurrences in legitimate and illegitimate infants.

The following table shows how the figures for 1963 compared with those for the preceding years:-

Year	Estimated Population.	Live Birth Rate.	Still Birth Rate.	Neonatal Death Rate.	Infant Death Rate.	Death Rate. (All Ages).
1952	41,970	14.4	18.1	18.2	33.1	7.7
1953	43,180	13.5	15.2	18.9	22.3	8.3
1954	42,580	13.6	13.7	26.0	25.9	10.3
1955	42,580	12.7	27.1	9.3	18.6	10.9
1956	41,250	14.3	23.2	22.0	27.1	10.9
1957	40,100	15.7	14.0	26.8	31.5	10.5
1958	38,850	15.4	22.8	13.4	23.4	10.3
1959	39,500	15.7	26.7	12.9	16.1	11.4
1960	40,660	16.2	23.7	10.6	19.7	11.3
1961	40,040	17.2	18.2	18.8	26.0	12.3
1962	40,710	17.9	14.9	24.7	31.6	11.5
1963	41,950	18.6	12.7	10.3	12.8	10.8

It is obvious that, so far as the above figures are significant, in the light of the very small numbers on which they are based, they are highly satisfactory, in that all the figures relating to stillbirths and deaths are lower than the corresponding figures for other recent years, while the live birth rate was higher than in other years.

After the usual adjustment of the birth and death rates, in accordance with the birth and death comparability factors provided by the Registrar General, to allow for the differences of age and sex distribution of the population in Lichfield Rural District, as compared with that of England and Wales as a whole, the local figures for 1963 can be compared with the national ones as follows:-

Place	Live Birth Rate.	Still Birth Rate.	Neonatal Death Rate.	Infant Death Rate.	Death Rate. (All Ages).
LICHFIELD R.D.	18.2	12.7	10.3	12.8	10.5
England and Wales.	18.2	17.3	14.1	20.9	12.2

It will be seen that the figures for Lichfield Rural District, adjusted where necessary on the basis mentioned above, compare very satisfactorily with the national ones. In view of the fluctuations which occur from year to year, it would obviously be unwise to draw more than tentative conclusions from these figures, satisfactory as they undoubtedly are in relation to the national ones on this occasion.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following table shows the causes of death of persons ordinarily resident in the Lichfield Rural District who died during the year, regardless of where the death actually occurred.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Sex	Total All Ages.	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year.	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis, Other	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	6	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	5	3
	F	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	7	4
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	14	14
	F	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	9	18
Coronary Disease, Angina	M	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	11	18	10
	F	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	8	9
Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Other Heart Disease	M	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	8
	F	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	5	23
Other Circulatory Disease	M	8	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	3
		9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	6
Influenza	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	M	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	10	10
	F	24	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	6	12

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total All Ages.	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year.	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over.
Bronchitis	M	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	11	4
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Malformations	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M	30	4	-	-	3	-	2	1	1	3	3	13
	F	25	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	7	11
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	6	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	1	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
All Other Accidents	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	1
	F	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Suicide	M	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	240	5	-	-	3	5	4	9	13	41	84	76
	F	212	3	2	1	1	2	1	7	16	24	52	103

It will be seen that, as recorded in an earlier paragraph, eight of the deaths occurred before the end of the fourth week of life and two further deaths between the end of the fourth week and the end of the first year of life. Of the former group, it will be recalled, from the earlier paragraph, that all actually died before the end of the first week of life, prematurity being the most frequent cause of death in this group, although one death resulted from pneumonia and another from a congenital malformation. These are, of course, now by far the most common causes of death in the very young infant. As regards the infants of over four weeks of age, the two deaths were both attributed to pneumonia, which can arise insidiously in children of this age-group, and can still, in spite of modern treatment, be a very real danger to life.

Taking the deaths at all ages as a whole, it will be noted that 160 male deaths out of 240 occurred at ages over 65 years, while in the case of women 155 deaths out of 212 occurred at ages over 65 years. The longevity of women, as compared with men, is shown even more clearly by the fact that more than two-thirds of the deaths in women in this age-group actually occurred in those over 75 years, while in the case of men more than half the deaths in the age-group occurred before, rather than after, 75 years.

The number of deaths resulting from cancer of the lung and bronchus, at 15, was the highest figure recorded, so far, for this disease, this figure comparing with figures of 12 for 1962, 8 for 1961, 14 for 1960, 8 for 1959, 10 for 1958, 9 for 1957 and 10 for 1956. There is the usual disparity between deaths in male and females. Also as usual is the fact that 8 of the 15 deaths, more than half, occurred at ages under 65 years. It is possibly also significant that, of the 3 deaths occurring in women, all occurred at ages under 65 years, while 7 of the 12 deaths occurring in men occurred at ages over 65 years. I would hazard the guess that the dissimilarity in the age-pattern in the two sexes is due to the fact that relatively few of the women now over 65 years of age have smoked for any large number of years, while a large proportion of men over 65 years have obviously done so. As the desirability, on grounds of health, of not becoming addicted to smoking or, if addicted, of breaking the addiction, has been very fully publicised during recent years, I shall make no further comment on this matter except to reiterate that it is well known, and fully proved, that in the case of smoking it is, contrary to some statements, 'never too late to mend', as mortality from lung cancer in persons who continue to smoke cigarettes heavily is much greater than in those who have smoked but have later ceased doing so.

It is encouraging to realise that, of the three deaths from diabetes, all occurred at ages over 65 years.

Deaths from pneumonia were rather more numerous than in most other recent years, but slightly fewer than in 1962. It will, however, be noted that the majority of these deaths also occurred in the elderly, where it tends to occur as a terminal feature.

The same can, to some extent, be said about bronchitis. In this case, however, there is the same discrepancy between the sexes that I noted in my last report, due to the effect of long-continued smoking in the elderly men, unaccompanied by any similar history among elderly women.

Of the deaths due to motor vehicle accidents, three of those occurring in young people involved persons riding motor-cycles, illustrating again the high proportion of accidents occurring to young people riding these vehicles. No evidence is available as to whether the victims were wearing crash helmets, but information on this point is, no doubt, collated by the police, and included in their returns, in order that appropriate conclusions can be drawn.

As regards deaths due to accidents other than those involving motor vehicles, the most notable feature on this occasion was that no fewer than three of the eight deaths occurred as the result of accidents at the place of work. This shows clearly the need for the increased publicity now being directed at the most common causes of these accidents.

Of the suicidal deaths, it should be noted that all involved persons in the prime of life, which may make one think of the emotional stresses and strains of modern life. The Coroner's verdict included, on each occasion, a statement that suicide occurred while the victim's balance of mind was disturbed.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious disease, other than tuberculosis, notified during the year, and also shows, for comparison, the number of cases of each disease notified during the preceding ten years:-

Disease.	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Scarlet Fever ...	59	65	16	20	27	35	43	39	15	4	6
Whooping Cough ...	101	52	20	62	79	22	27	50	13	11	6
Measles	690	13	461	23	655	258	196	61	768	56	674
Polionyelitis ...	4	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection... ..	2	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas... ..	4	11	6	11	5	3	1	1	-	3	-
Pneumonia	59	42	19	20	17	33	69	34	59	26	23
Dysentery	2	18	23	26	6	8	23	-	9	21	5
Food Poisoning ...	6	-	-	4	10	6	3	61	6	18	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.. ...	-	2	1	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	2

The incidence of scarlet fever was again satisfactorily low, and the disease of the same relatively mild character experienced in other recent years. Taking these factors together with the satisfactory results of modern treatment, it can reasonably be said that this disease no longer constitutes a serious public health problem.

In the case of whooping cough, also, the incidence was low. In fact, in this instance, the figures were better than in any previous year. In this case, unlike scarlet fever, the improvement can be attributed to the immunisation campaign carried out during recent years, of which the benefits are now being reaped. In view of the very serious complications which still accompany this disease in the very young infant, the bringing of the disease under the present degree of control is a very important medical advance.

As regards measles, the picture is still a rather gloomy one, in that the usual biennial epidemic occurred, involving the great majority of children not involved in previous epidemics. Although the uncomplicated disease is not very serious, the complications which occur in a significant number of cases are much more so. One young child died from the disease during the year, this being the first death which has occurred for a number of years. Taking the disease as a whole, the need for a prophylactic agent suitable for general use in children is clearly apparent. Unfortunately, the technical difficulties encountered in the considerable efforts to produce a suitable immunising material do not yet appear to have been overcome, and there is every likelihood that 1965 will provide a similar pattern to that shown in 1963.

Turning to poliomyelitis, the position is much more satisfactory, as, for the sixth consecutive year, no case of either paralytic or non-paralytic poliomyelitis was recorded. This satisfactory local experience is part of an equally satisfactory national one, in which the disease has sunk to almost insignificant proportions. Taken as a whole, the present satisfactory position is an ample reward for all the hard work put into the various vaccination campaigns first with Salk and later with Sabin (oral) vaccine. It would seem that, if these campaigns are continued on a reasonable scale, we shall be able to claim almost complete victory over what was, in quite recent times, a much dreaded disease.

It will be noted that 1963 was also the sixth consecutive year in which no case of meningococcal infection was notified. As the disease is, even with satisfactory modern treatment, still a serious one, the freedom from infection of this type is a very satisfactory one, probably attributable to prompt and energetic treatment of the sporadic cases which still occur in the wider community outside the district.

The freedom from erysipelas was, of course, also satisfactory, although this disease is not one greatly to be feared under modern conditions.

The number of cases of pneumonia notified was again fairly low, but does not, for reasons mentioned in a previous report, give any real indication of the total number of patients affected by the different types of the disease.

Two of the five cases of dysentery occurred in one household, involving father and daughter. The remaining three cases were sporadic ones, two of these patients being children. One of these children died, a very unusual event in these days, but there is very little doubt that the outcome would have been a happier one had the involved child not already been suffering from a serious congenital abnormality which greatly reduced the resistance to disease. The necessary steps were taken in each case, according to circumstances, to minimise the chance of the infection being passed to others.

Of the four notified cases of food-poisoning, two were sporadic ones, occurring in different homes, unlinked by any chain of infection. In one of these cases, however, it was fairly obvious that the infection had come from another member of the household, who had suffered from the infection in the previous year, and who had, in spite of full and adequate treatment, continued to carry the infection in her bowel. The other two cases involved mother and child in one family. In all cases, any necessary measures were taken, in co-operation with the family doctors concerned, with the object of obviating, as far as possible, any real danger of spread of infection while, at the same time, causing the minimum of inconvenience to the individuals affected.

While a small number of cases of puerperal pyrexia and ophthalmia neonatorum were notified, none occurred in circumstances giving rise to any real concern.

The complete absence of any cases of either smallpox or diphtheria during the entire period covered by the above table, is, of course, a matter for continuing satisfaction. There is still, however, a very strong case for immunisation against diphtheria in infancy, with re-immunisation during school-life, and a reasonable case for vaccination against smallpox, provided it is carried out during the second year of life or, at latest, before 5 years of age. If not done before that age, routine primary vaccination is not advised, unless necessitated by foreign travel or possible contact with smallpox infection. In the case of contact with a suspected case of smallpox, whether or not the diagnosis has been confirmed bacteriologically, vaccination is still very strongly recommended.

TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis notified, and of deaths from the disease during the year are set out below:-

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 15 years.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
From 15 - 25 years.	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 years.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55 years.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
55 - 65 years.	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65 years.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals:	5	3	-	1	1	1	1	-

It will be seen that, of the eight new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified, no less than five occurred in persons of between 35 years and 65 years, illustrating again what is now becoming the typical picture, as against the heavy incidence in adolescence and early adult life which used to be characteristic of the disease.

The deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis also fit into the new picture, one occurring in a man in early middle-age, who had suffered from the disease in a form not responsive to treatment for quite a number of years, while the other death occurred in a woman of 77 years of age.

Fortunately, cases of, and deaths from, non-pulmonary tuberculosis are now so infrequent that it is impossible to trace any particular pattern in them.

The following table shows the number of new cases and of deaths from the disease, pulmonary and non-pulmonary, during 1963 and the preceding twelve years:-

YEAR.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1951	7	11	5	4	5	1	-	1
1952	14	10	6	4	1	2	-	2
1953	15	15	2	1	3	3	-	-
1954	17	20	5	2	8	1	-	1
1955	10	8	2	3	-	-	-	-
1956	9	9	2	1	-	-	-	-
1957	14	10	1	1	1	-	-	1
1958	11	3	2	2	2	-	-	-
1959	8	8	-	-	4	1	-	-
1960	5	5	-	1	3	1	-	-
1961	5	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
1962	5	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
1963	5	3	-	1	1	1	1	-

The figures suggest that the incidence of new cases and of deaths from tuberculosis has now settled down at about the level first achieved in 1959, when the results achieved by improved medical treatment of patients and the gradual elimination of tuberculous infection from the nation's herd of dairy cows were combining to reduce both the number of new cases and deaths from the disease.

Measures for treatment of patients and the investigation and surveillance of contacts continued along the same lines as described in earlier reports. The number of beds available for treatment of patients in the early acute stage appeared to be fully adequate to meet the need. There was no difficulty in extending surveillance to the increasing number of already diagnosed patients moving into the district as inward transfers.

ANTHRAX.

Information was received on two occasions during the year from the police as to animals suspected of suffering from anthrax. Fortunately, neither case was confirmed on bacteriological examination.

No case, or suspected case, of anthrax in a human being was notified during the year.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Facilities for diagnosis and treatment remained as in previous years, but, as then, no figures are available as to the number of cases, as there is no geographical breakdown of figures returned by the clinics at the hospitals in Birmingham, Burton-on-Trent, Stafford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Arrangements continued to work well, along the lines recorded in earlier reports

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The availability of beds for tuberculous patients has already been mentioned, in an earlier part of this report.

As regards other infectious disease, apart from tuberculosis, the demand for beds was relatively small, as the great majority of these can now be treated satisfactorily at home. Although the Moxley and Little Bromwich Hospitals are somewhat distant, they appeared to cope with the actual demand very satisfactorily.

The demand for maternity beds tended to increase by reason of increasing population and the relatively high birthrate in this and surrounding districts. Beds were, however, available for all mothers where hospital confinement was indicated on medical or obstetric grounds, while checking of home conditions ensured that hospital beds were also made available, on social grounds, to mothers whose housing circumstances justified priority being given.

The greatest difficulty continued in assessing those elderly chronic sick patients most in need of the relatively small, and always inadequate, number of beds available for this type of patient. Home conditions were checked, where necessary, in order to ascertain the degree of domestic difficulty or hardship. It must be emphasised, however, that, although the position in relation to this matter is unsatisfactory, it is no worse than, and probably not as bad as, that in other surrounding areas.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Arrangements continued as in previous years. I feel that the link between the environmental and personal health services provided by my joint appointments with the Rural District and County Councils is a helpful feature in this work, as housing conditions, in particular, are often an important factor in both services.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

Fortunately, unlike the previous year, it was not necessary during 1963 to apply either to a Magistrate or a Magistrate's Court for an Order authorising compulsory removal of a person to hospital or hostel.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Arrangements for inspection of food premises, and investigation of complaints by the public continued as in previous years, and it is obvious that the public are becoming steadily more aware of the importance of good food hygiene, and this is, correspondingly, becoming an even more important part of the work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors. One does sometimes feel, however, that the public might at times do rather more themselves, by drawing the attention of shopkeepers to any obvious breach of good hygienic practice, such as unnecessary handling of food with the hands or failure to prevent contamination of food by flies, dogs etc. I think it will be agreed that a complaint by a customer about such matters will, where this is necessary, exercise a strong deterring influence. It is not suggested, however, that such breaches of good practice are in any way more prevalent in the district than in other districts throughout the country.

According to records provided by the County Medical Officer, 57 samples of milk and 94 samples of other foods and drugs, obtained in the district, were examined during the year. Of these, all the samples of milk and all but three of the other samples proved to be genuine. The three unsatisfactory samples included two of hamburgers in gravy, in both of which the meat content was deficient, and one of prunes, which contained a non-permitted preservative.

The results of the examination of milks for cleanliness, pasteurisation, sterilisation and the presence of tubercle bacilli during the year were as follows:-

Grade of Milk.	DETAILS (AND SIGNIFICANCE) OF TESTS.							
	Meth. Blue (Cleanliness).		Phosphatase (Pasteurisation).		Turbidity (Sterilisation).		Biological (Tuberculosis).	
	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Neg.	Pos.
T.T. ...	10	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
T.T.(Past.) ...	92	4	98	-	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised ...	50	2	53	-	-	-	-	-
Sterilised ...	-	-	-	-	56	-	-	-
Totals: ...	152	6	151	-	56	-	5	-

The results are very similar to those of other recent years, with a similar proportion of failures in the methylene blue test, a matter dealt with by the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, uniformly satisfactory results of the tests showing the efficiency of the pasteurisation and sterilisation processes and absence of tubercle bacilli from the relatively small number of milks tested for that organism. On the whole, the results of sampling can be regarded as reasonably, though not entirely, satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is, of course, derived from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. Mr. Taylor, Engineer-in-Chief to the Company, reports that the water supply during 1963 was satisfactory in both quality and quantity.

He records that regular sampling was carried out at the eleven pumping stations, at the reservoir and repumping station at Gentleshaw and from various taps and hydrants in the area, 124 samples being taken, in all, from taps and 26 from hydrants. All samples were examined chemically and bacteriologically, the great majority being entirely satisfactory.

Chlorination was carried out, as a precautionary measure, at most of the pumping stations and, as an emergency measure, in all cases of possible contamination due to burst or damaged pipes.

The waters are not of a nature to dissolve lead, but are, as noted on previous occasions, deficient in fluoride. It would appear that, in the light of action now being initiated by the County Council, after seeking the views of District Councils, the deficiency in question is likely to be remedied within the next year or so.

At the end of the year, 12,783 houses were being supplied directly by the Company, while four houses were being supplied by standpipe, as compared with five in the previous year.

Apart from those houses provided with a supply of piped water, as mentioned above, a small number of houses in remote areas, are served, under private arrangements, by wells. The water from these wells is tested from time to time, on request, for purity, and any necessary advice given.

HOUSING.

I am informed by the Housing Manager that the position in relation to rehousing, and its effect on the waiting list for houses, was as follows:-

Waiting List at 1st January, 1963	...	...	...	665
Rehoused in New Houses during 1963	...	...	...	51
Rehoused in Relet Houses during 1963...	...	...	...	76
Waiting List at 31st December, 1963	...	...	...	789

Of the 127 families rehoused during the year, 14 families were rehoused from unfit houses, as compared with 61 families from unfit houses out of 344 lettings and relettings in 1962. It will be seen that, owing to the much smaller number of housing completions in 1963, as compared with 1962, progress in the clearance of unfit houses was much slower in the latter year, as compared with the former. Fortunately, the great majority of the houses represented in earlier years, as unfit for human habitation, have now been cleared.

As regards the waiting list, this consisted of 512 tenants, 246 lodgers and 31 caravan-dwellers at the end of 1963, as against 429 tenants, 202 lodgers and 34 caravan-dwellers at the beginning of the year, showing that the proportions of applicants in the various categories was very similar at the end of the year and at the beginning, apart from the very small decrease in the number of applications from caravan-dwellers.

The following table shows the statutory action taken by the Council during 1963 in relation to houses unfit for human habitation:-

PROPERTY	STATUTORY ACTION
2 - 12 Mill Lane, Fazeley.	Clearance Area Declared, 22nd February.
19 - 51,73,73a,79,81 and 83 Lichfield Street, Fazeley.	Clearance Area Declared, 22nd February.
1 - 13 Free Trade Place, Fazeley.	Clearance Area Declared, 22nd February.
2 - 10 Barratt Square, Fazeley.	Clearance Area Declared, 22nd February.
The Avenue (Woodyard) Cottage, Elford.	Undertaking Accepted, 26th April.
Three Cottages, The Beck, Elford.	Undertaking Accepted, 26th April.
Church Gate Cottages, Elford. (two dwellings).	Undertaking Accepted, 26th April.
Pinlico Cottages, Elford. (two dwellings).	Undertaking Accepted, 26th April.
Avenue Gardens, Elford. (four dwellings).	Undertaking Accepted, 26th April.
Cottage, Pipe Lane, Blithbury, Mavesyn Ridware.	Undertaking Accepted, 28th June.
39 Howdles Lane, Brownhills.	Undertaking Accepted, 25th October.
Cottage, Stockings Lane, (High Street), Longdon.	Undertaking Accepted, 25th October.

The number of houses covered by the above statutory action, at 55, was 18 higher than the total for the previous year. Unfortunately, it appears likely that, for various administrative reasons, there will be some delay in the provision of the houses in which the present tenants will be rehoused, and therefore before the houses at present occupied can be dealt with either by clearance or other appropriate action.

Taking the clearance of unfit houses over a period of years, the figures of 55 houses in 1963 and 37 houses in 1962 compare with figures of 25 houses in 1961, 70 in 1960, 18 in 1959, 8 in 1958, 37 in 1957, 22 in 1956 and 19 in 1955. The figures illustrate graphically how widely the statutory action taken has fluctuated from year to year in order to keep roughly in step with the completion of new houses required for the rehousing of the families involved.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 - 1959.

The necessary inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspector, the following work being dealt with during the year:-

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	8	1	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	81	12	1	-
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	15	7	-	-
Total:	104	20	1	-

The table set out below shows the defects found, and action taken, as a result of the inspections carried out:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found		Referred		Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness.	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperatures.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	2	2	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work).	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	3	3	-	1	-

Very little outwork is carried out in this District during the year, and in fact only the same three outworkers have been notified as in the year before. The premises concerned were visited by the Public Health Inspectors and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Nature of Work.	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing) Making apparel) etc.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Electro-plate.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carding, etc., of buttons etc.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	3	-	-	-	-	-

DRAINAGE AND SEWERS.

(Prepared by Mr. J.G. Rimand, M.I.Mun.E., Engineer and Surveyor).

Generally throughout the district sewage treatment works have been well maintained by the workmen employed by you. Final effluents have on the whole been generally of a reasonable standard having regard to the load imposed on many of the works by the considerable amount of development now taking place in various villages.

ALREWAS - The sewage treatment works at Alrewas is working reasonably having regard to the large flow now being received from this village due to the very considerable development now taking place. Proposals for extending this works are included in the Council's programme. In the village of Fradley the general sewerage system is unsatisfactory, and proposals to deal with this will be included in the Alrewas scheme, either by connecting same to the Alrewas system or by providing a separate treatment works.

ARMITAGE AND LONGDON - The sewage treatment works for these parishes is working reasonably satisfactorily, having regard to the large amount of development now taking place. During the year the Ministry have approved proposals for the enlargement of the sewage treatment works, so as to provide sufficient capacity to deal with the development now taking place and also to enable the existing small treatment works to be done away with and replaced with a pumping plant. It is hoped that a contract for same will be let in the very near future.

BRINDLEY HEATH - The new sewage treatment works is working satisfactorily, as is also the older works at Penkridge Bank.

BURNWOOD - The Pumping station at Cannock Road is working satisfactorily, but the Peters Lane and Chasetown sewage treatment works are seriously overloaded and in need of enlargement and the Ministry have approved proposals covering the reconstruction of the Peters Lane and the replacement of the Chasetown works by a pumping station. Provision is also being made for the relief of the existing sewerage system by new trunk sewers and also by the construction of surface water sewers. Tenders have already been let for the first section of this work which is now being carried out.

CLIFTON CAMPVILLE - New works and sewerage system are now working satisfactorily.

COLTON - Conditions show little change in this parish but proposals for the new works and sewerage system have been approved by the Council and submitted to the Ministry.

CURBOROUGH AND ELMHURST - The pumping station and sewage treatment works near to the outfall of the sewer near the Elmhurst portion of the parish has effected a considerable improvement.

DRAYTON BASSETT - During the year a new sewage treatment works has been constructed and the whole of the village sewered. It is anticipated that the new works would become operational early next year.

EDINGALE - The Council have approved proposals for the sewerage of this village and the construction of a sewage treatment works. This will shortly be submitted to the Ministry for their consideration.

ELFORD - Proposals have been approved during the year for the sewerage of this village, and these will in due course be submitted to the Ministry for consideration.

FAREWELL AND CHORLEY - The works dealing with the Council houses is operating satisfactorily, but this will be done away with when the village is sewered as part of the Burntwood scheme.

FAZELEY - The sewage from Fazeley is dealt with by the Tamworth Joint Sewage Committee, passing from the main sewer in the Watling Street under the canal to Tamworth. The pumping station at Brook End, Fazeley, and the pumping station and storage tank at Longwood are both working satisfactorily.

GENTLESHAW - Proposals for the sewerage of this village are now under consideration.

HAMMERWICH - The Watling Street disposal works is now working over capacity, due to the increased development in Brownhills. The Newtown scheme is completed, and awaiting development to bring same into proper operation. The pumping station at Triangle is working satisfactorily, but will be done away with as part of the new Burntwood Scheme.

HAMSTALL RIDWARE - The Council have approved proposals for the sewerage of this village and the construction of a treatment works. These will be submitted to the Ministry in due course.

HARLASTON - The treatment works is badly overloaded, and will in the near future be replaced by the pumping station, which forms part of the scheme for the complete sewerage of this village and the pumping of the sewage to the new treatment works at Edingale. Proposals have been approved by the Council, and will shortly be submitted to the Ministry for their consideration.

HOPWAS - These works, which were reconstructed before the war, are working reasonably satisfactorily.

HINTS - Proposals have been approved by the Council for the sewerage of the village of Hints, and will shortly be submitted to the Ministry for their consideration.

KINGS BROMLEY - A scheme is being prepared for the sewerage of this village and the construction of a small treatment works. This will be submitted to the Council for their consideration in the very near future.

MAVESYN RIDWARE - The small pumping station and disposal plant at Blithbury is operating satisfactorily. The village of Hill Ridware has during the year been completely sewered, and a treatment works constructed. This has just been brought into operation.

SHENSTONE - The new sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the village of Shenstone and the pumping stations at Lynn Lane and Woodend are working satisfactorily. A disposal works at Stonnall is badly overloaded, but the Ministry have approved proposals for the construction of a new works, and it is anticipated that a contract in respect of same will be let during the coming year.

Little Aston is drained to the Little Aston and Streetly Joint Sewage Committee works at Forge Lane, and this is working extremely satisfactorily.

STREETHAY - These works were re-constructed during the war in order to deal with the flow from the W.A.A.F. camp. A modern bacteria bed and humus tank has been provided and these are working reasonably satisfactorily.

SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON - The disposal works at Botany Bay to deal with the housing estate is working very satisfactorily.

WALL - The disposal works in this village is working satisfactorily. The Muckley Corner end of the parish has been included in the Burntwood Sewerage Scheme, and sewers will be laid in same during the coming year.

WHITTINGTON - The Ministry have approved proposals for the replacement of this works so as to deal with the increased development and also to receive the sewage from the Barracks. A contract will be let for this during the coming year.

WIGGINTON - Conditions in the portion of Wigginton Parish which is sewered are quite good, the disposal being carried out at the Tamworth Sewage Joint Committee works.

WEEFORD - There is no change to report in the sewerage conditions existing in this parish.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Lichfield Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a report on the administration of the work of your Public Health Inspectors for the year 1963.

The first point of record to which I must refer is the retirement of Mr. W.E. Shaw in January, 1963. Mr. Shaw came to this Authority in 1940 and apart from a short break in appointment he served this Council for nearly 25 years with honour and distinction. His knowledge of local government and wealth of experience in public health administration was invaluable to me personally when I took over my appointment in 1946. I will remember his help, advice and co-operation for the rest of my own service in local government. It is true that no one is indispensable but Mr. Shaw's retirement was quite a loss to the Health Department. I extend to him my best wishes for many happy years of retirement.

The vacancy in the Department was filled by the appointment of Mr. B.D. Rogerson who commenced duties on 4th February, 1963. The Departmental staff was also increased by the appointment of Miss J. Laidner as Clerk/Typist who commenced duties on 18th March, 1963.

Looking back over previous reports I note that the duties of Meat Inspection have always been the subject of comment and the year under review cannot be made an exception. In October, 1963 the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food issued the Meat Inspection Regulations which have had such a considerable impact in the work of the Department. These Regulations make meat inspection a duty on local authorities and they are empowered to make charges for the services which they provide. Whilst it has ensured a 100% inspection of all meat slaughtered in the District there is much that could be criticised in the practical aspects of the Regulations. Full details of the meat inspection duties of the Inspectors are given in my report.

The Refuse Cleansing Services received further consideration by the Council and approval was given to suggestions for re-organisation which should enable this service to maintain its continued efficiency, but as I mentioned last year the increasing rate of new building development will mean that this Service must be kept under regular review.

The Council's programme of Slum Clearance is proceeding steadily and a total of 55 houses were dealt with under the Housing Acts during the year.

In conclusion I would extend my appreciation to all Members and Officers of the Council and particularly to the Staff of the Health Department for their continued support and co-operation during 1963.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

GEORGE LEEDER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

1st June, 1964.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

1st April, 1963 - 31st March, 1964.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

This Service continues to give cause for some concern in its operation. The rapid development of new housing estates in various Parishes places a strain on the collection service. The number of premises which now receive a regular weekly visit is approximately 15,000 having an unofficial estimate of some 18,000 dustbins. It has been necessary for the Council to approve the provision of an additional vehicle and it is hoped that this, together with the ordering of larger type collection vehicles, will maintain the service in its efficient operation. The annually increasing cost of this Service gives cause for concern. It is unfortunately an expendable service which, cannot very easily be reduced without serious consequences to the general health of the population.

The Council's attention must, in the near future, be directed once again to the method of disposal of refuse. This has been under discussion for several years but has been deferred for the time being. The present method of disposal of refuse is, in my opinion, a potential health hazard and improved methods of disposal which will reduce these hazards must soon be given more determined consideration.

The cost of the Service for the year under review amounted to £38,275.

The approximate unit cost of collection and disposal was as follows:-

	£.	s.	d.
Net cost of collection per ton ...	2.	1.	0.
Net cost of disposal per ton. ...		5.	10.
Net cost of collection per 1,000 population	782.	0.	0
Net cost of disposal per 1,000 population	112.	0.	0.
Net cost of collection per 1,000 premises	2,187.	0.	0.
net cost of disposal per 1,000 premises	313.	0.	0.

(b) "Keep Britain Tidy" Campaign.

The Council have continued their policy of providing and maintaining litter baskets of contemporary design throughout the District. There is still a large proportion of the public which remains to be convinced that the countryside should be kept free from waste paper and litter of all descriptions. Far too much time has to be spent by the Council's employees on cleaning up open land and lay-bys used by picnickers during the summer months.

HOUSING

(a) Housing Act, 1957.

The slum clearance programme was continued during the year when the Council approved the Lichfield Rural (Mill Lane and Lichfield Street, Fazeley) Clearance Area 1963 dealing with a total of 40 houses for eventual demolition. The subsequent development of this Area will be undertaken by the Council and the tenants re-housed on land immediately at the rear of the Clearance Area.

A further 15 houses were dealt with by the Council by accepting official Undertakings from the owners that the houses would not be occupied until they had been made fit for habitation.

(b) Repairs to Houses.

A total of 55 houses were repaired as a result of informal action and a further 13 houses were repaired following the service of Notices under the Housing Acts and Public Health Acts.

(c) Rent Act, 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair.

The value of this Act, so far as its aims to secure improved conditions of repair, continues to decline. The following tables of applications for Certificates of Disrepair relates to the year ending 31st December, 1963.

Part I - Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

(1)	Number of applications for certificates.	3
(2)	Number of decisions not to issue certificates.	NIL
(3)	Number of decisions to issue certificates	
	(a) in respect of some but not all defects.	1
	(b) in respect of all defects.	2
(4)	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule.	2
(5)	Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule.	NIL
(6)	Number of Certificates issued.	1

There were no applications for Cancellation of Certificates.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year a total of 172 visits were undertaken by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself with a view to giving assistance and advice to prospective applicants for grant. These visits, made prior to the receipt of a formal application, help to reduce the time factor for consideration of applications. It enables us to see the proposals before they are committed to complete plans and specifications which may well have to be returned for alteration or amendment if the visit had not been made.

The following tables show details of applications received during the year:-

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS.

APPLICATIONS				NUMBER GRANTED		Total Value of Works.	Total Value of Grants.
Rec'd.	No. of Houses	Refused.	With- drawn.	Owner/ Occup'r.	Others.		
26	32	Nil.	1	19	13	£21,907. 5s. 8d.	£9,792. 9s. 10d.

STANDARD GRANTS

APPLICATIONS				NUMBER GRANTED		Total Value of Works.	Total Value of Grants.
Rec'd.	No. of Houses	Refused.	With- drawn.	Owner/ Occup'r.	Others.		
51	53	Nil.	1	44	9	-	£6,790

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

There has been no known contravention of this Act during the year and the Department has not received any complaints regarding infringements.

THEATRES AND CINEMAS

Under delegated powers from the Staffordshire County Council 5 licences were granted for the "occasional" use of premises for production of stage plays and one licence for the continued use of cinema premises. The co-operation of the County Fire Brigade in the issue of these licences is invaluable.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year a total of 394 visits to premises were made by the Rodent Officer. The Council have considered their policy of re-charging for this work and have decided that a charge will in future only be made in the case of work undertaken at industrial or business premises.

The contract system of rodent control continues to be well maintained although there has been a small reduction in the number of agricultural contracts.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The Council have been operating atmospheric pollution gauges in the vicinity of the Central Electricity Generating Board Power Station at Armitage for the past 5 years. Having regard to the fact that the Board maintain their own instruments and provide details of analysis for publication by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research the Council decided to withdraw the instruments from their own sites. Accordingly the records detailed below concludes the Council's analysis for this particular area. It should perhaps be recorded that the Power Station has not, so far, given any cause for concern in regard to atmospheric pollution but the records which have been obtained during these past years by the Council will remain as a general guide of conditions which have existed during this period of time.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Table 1

DEPOSIT GAUGES - RECORDS OF DEPOSITS

Deposits in Tons per Square Mile per Month

Month	14 Millmoor Ave. Armitage.	Sewage Works, Armitage.	Chadwick Arms, Hill Ridware.
January	7.71	6.96	5.88
February	5.81	5.34	4.15
March	17.82	15.07	12.67
Total	31.34	27.37	22.70
Monthly Average ...	10.45	9.12	7.57

Table 2

LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES - RECORD OF SULPHUR POLLUTION

Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected - in milligrammes
per 100 square centimetres per day

Month	14 Millmoor Ave. Armitage.	Sewage Works, Armitage.	Chadwick Arms, Hill Ridware.
January	2.26	3.68	2.45
February	2.05	2.69	1.77
March	1.35	1.52	1.13
Total	5.66	7.89	5.35
Monthly Average ...	1.89	2.63	1.78

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960.

The operation of this Act continues to provide some semblance of control on the use and occupation of caravan sites. It would be foolish to accept that the Act provides all the answers to the many problems that caravan occupation gives in the course of a year. There are far too many occupied caravans individually sited in various parts of the District. The difficulty of co-ordinating these individual caravans into larger sites with better amenities is not very easy in a rural area due to the lack of such sites, and the difficulties of rural transport. There does not seem to be any diminution in the use of caravans for permanent residential occupation. This fact must surely create, within a very few years, an entirely new problem of housing conditions, in which the maintenance and repair of caravans to keep them habitable for occupation will predominate.

The number of licensed sites within the District now total 63 of which six are recreational catering for some 243 caravan spaces and the remaining 57 are for permanent residential occupation providing some 270 caravan spaces.

The "itinerant" caravan dweller continues to be a problem both when he is present in the District and also after he has left.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(a) Meat Inspection.

During the year the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food introduced the Meat Inspection Regulations to come into operation on 1st October, 1963. These Regulations placed a statutory duty on all local authorities to provide a service of meat inspection and meat marking in respect of all animals slaughtered and intended for human consumption, but at the same time local authorities are empowered to levy charges for this service. The Regulations lay down standard procedures for inspections, and these now become a mandatory standard to which Public Health Inspectors must carry out their inspection duties, and in addition the carcass must be marked by the examining Inspector to indicate that the meat has been found to be free from disease.

So far as this rural area is concerned these Regulations have placed a considerable burden on the staff of the Health Department and whilst the intention of the Regulations to secure a 100% meat inspection service have been achieved it has only been possible by the extreme diligence of your Public Health Inspectors to their duties and responsibilities under the Regulations. There are a total of 8 slaughterhouses in the District all of whom undertake their slaughtering of animals outside normal working hours and this has involved the Inspectorial staff working many hours of overtime each week to ensure that the carcasses are examined and marked. It is difficult to understand why the Ministry do not allow local authorities some degree of control on the times of slaughtering; with modern systems of cold storage and refrigeration there can surely be no justification for slaughtering to be undertaken during evening hours and at week-ends.

During the year 1963 a total of 74,734 carcasses were examined by the Public Health Inspectors. The total amount of meat and offal condemned was $49\frac{1}{2}$ tons. It is of interest to note that the amount of bovine meat condemned as being affected with Tuberculosis was only .05 of the total cattle slaughtered. This follows the pattern that has been very noticeable in recent years and can, without any doubt, be credited to the work of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the implementation of their Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme. The percentage of Tuberculosis found in Cattle has been reduced in this district from 4.71 in 1960 to .05 in 1963.

The number of carcasses found to be affected with *Cysticercus Bovis* which gives rise to a tapeworm infection in human beings, showed a marked increase over previous years. A total of 22 carcasses were found to be affected in some degree and 5 carcasses were refrigerated for 21 days at 20°F in order to render them safe for human consumption.

The following statistics gives details of the meat inspection service during the year:-

	CATTLE	CALVES	PIGS	SHEEP AND LAMBS	GOATS.
Carcases inspected	10,308	2,480	15,129	46,793	24
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	87	25	37	235	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.. ...	1,976	6	1,118	920	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci..	10.01	1.33	7.63	2.49	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.. ...	4	-	121	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.05	-	.8	-	-
<u>Cystercosis.</u>					
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.. ...	22	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration... ..	5	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned... ..	-	-	-	-	-

DISEASED MEAT AND OFFALS

<u>All Diseases, except Tuberculosis:</u>				Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
CATTLE: Carcase Meat	...	...	...	20	17	2	20
Offal	...	...	...	10	16	1	14
CALVES: Carcase Meat	...	...	...	-	13	1	15
Offal	...	...	...	-	-	-	14
SHEEP: Carcase Meat	...	...	...	3	13	2	26
Offal	...	...	...	1	15	3	7
PIGS: Carcase Meat	...	...	...	2	7	3	17
Offal	...	...	...	1	4	2	25

Tuberculosis only:

CATTLE: Carcase Meat	...	...	...	-	5	1	17
Offal	...	...	...	-	1	0	3
CALVES: Carcase Meat	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Offal	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
SHEEP: Carcase Meat	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Offal	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
PIGS: Carcase Meat	...	...	...	-	13	2	19
Offal	...	...	...	-	-	-	6
				42	9	3	15

In addition to the $42\frac{1}{2}$ tons of Carcase meat and offals condemned, the Public Health Inspectors have issued condemnation certificates in respect of the following foodstuffs:-

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Bacon ...	1	0	1	5	0
305 Chickens ...	-	9	3	15	7
24 Cans Ham ...	-	2	3	3	0
15 Cans Corned Beef	-	1	0	25	0
Sausage ...	-	1	0	0	0
Rice ...	-	1	0	0	0
Ham ...	-	-	1	8	0
1 Can Frankfurters	-	-	-	20	0
5 Cans Chopped Pork	-	-	-	20	0
2 Cans Peas ...	-	-	-	7	0
1 Can Peas ...	-	-	-	1	0
	1	16	3	20	7

(b) Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations.

It has been necessary during the year to take summary proceedings in several instances where, at one of the large slaughterhouses, slaughtermen engaged in the process of handling meat were found to be using tobacco. This practice of smoking whilst engaged in this trade of butchery is objectionable, not merely because of the fact of smoking, but it involves the risk of contamination of the meat by the transfer of germs to the meat from the mouth with the fingers in the process of smoking. In every case the Magistrates imposed fines which became progressive as the cases occurred. I feel that this unhygienic practice has now been reduced by the slaughtermen and the incidence appears to have abated.

(c) Food Hygiene.

There have been a total of 156 visits made to food premises of all descriptions during the year. In all the premises visited the standards of hygiene were found to be reasonably well maintained.

